

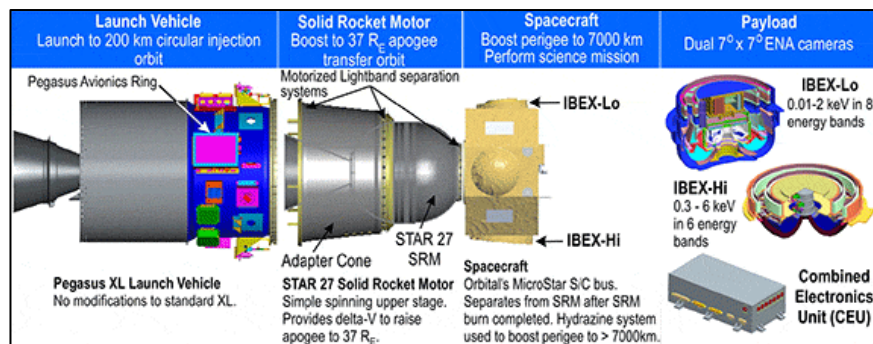
IBEX: Managing Logistical Exigencies

The Sun and solar system move through a part of the galaxy referred to as the “local interstellar medium,” which is accumulated from material released by the stars of our galaxy by means of stellar winds, novae, and supernovae. *Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX)* images will reveal global properties of the interstellar boundaries that separate our heliosphere from the local interstellar medium.

Early on in the *IBEX* satellite’s development, it was decided that upon completion the spacecraft would be moved from the contractor’s facility to the launch pad attached to the *Pegasus* launch vehicle rather than separately, as originally planned. The time has come for the move, and it is now obvious that the satellite-rocket assembly will not fit into the satellite-moving container for the 15-mile trip by truck.

Given the situation, the recommendation was to double-bag the stack in plastic for the move. However, this procedure is recommended only for much shorter trips. Time grows short as you and the team consider the technical, environmental, cost, schedule, and other risks.

What do you do?



NASA image

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